



## **PROGRESS REPORT NO. 114**

**TO:** Laura Buelow, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – via Email  
Matt Wilkening, EPA – via Email  
Dustan Bott, EPA – via Email

**FROM:** Kris McCaig – Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

**DATE:** January 5, 2016

**FILE NO:** 01-773180-000

**RE:** Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 114 Month Ending December 2015

---

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Phase 2 Sediment Study - Field sampling activities were completed on October 24, 2013, short-term bioassay tests (i.e., 10-day *Chironomus dilutes* and 28-day *Hyaella azteca*) were completed for all batches on April 24, 2014, long-term bioassay tests (i.e., *Chironomus dilutes* and 42-day *Hyaella azteca*) were completed for all batches on May 4, 2015, and backscatter electron microscopy (BSEM) analysis on selected samples was completed in May 2015. TAI delivered the draft data summary report (DSR) to EPA on December 18, 2015.

Chemicals of Potential Concern (COPC) Refinement Document – as required in “Resolution A” in the January 18, 2013 letter from EPA which detailed the resolution to the TAI’s dispute of EPA’s comments on the Phase 2 Sediment Study quality assurance project plan, TAI submitted the Draft COPC Refinement Document to EPA on March 31, 2015. TAI is in receipt of EPA comments dated October 7, 2015 and has reviewed and discussed the comments with EPA. It was agreed that TAI will respond to the comments and acknowledge the technical issues raised by EPA in future refinements but the COPC refinement document will remain draft for now.

Bossburg Flat Beach Refined Sediment and Soil Study – Field sampling activities were completed on May 8, 2015. Sediment and soil sample chemistry analyses and data validation are complete and validated data have been made available for EPA’s quality assurance review. TAI is in receipt of EPA letters documenting their quality assurance review for Parts 1 through 5 of the validated data and TAI responded to EPA’s review

comments on October 5, 2015. The Bossburg Study draft cultural resources monitoring report was submitted to EPA on September 24, 2015 and the draft data summary report was submitted to EPA on October 7, 2015.

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Tissue Study – TAI received comments from EPA on the November 2014 Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Macroinvertebrate Tissue Study on November 16, 2015 and is reviewing and evaluating comments.

Human Health – TAI received from EPA, the draft data analysis report (DAR) for the Recreational Use Survey on January 17, 2014 and submitted comments to EPA on June 11, 2014. TAI received from EPA, a November 23, 2015 Memorandum written by SRC titled “Recreation Use Survey Fish Ingestion Rate” and is reviewing and evaluating to provide comments.

2016 Residential Soil Sampling – Efforts are underway to plan for the 2016 residential soil sampling based on EPA’s August 11, 2015 directive letter to TAI to conduct the residential soil sampling in 2016. TAI submitted a draft access agreement letter to EPA on October 20, 2015 for review and received comments on the draft letter in November. TAI revised the letter and EPA sent it to the broader UCR RI/FS distribution list for comments on November 30, 2015. TAI received comments from EPA in December and is working to finalize the letter and attachments for mailing in January. Coordination continued during the month of December regarding elements of the addendum to the 2014 Residential Soil Study QAPP; TAI received EPA’s November 4, 2015 letter detailing the required elements. TAI submitted a draft QAPP addendum to EPA on November 20, 2015 for review and comment.

White Sturgeon Sediment Toxicity Study – In January 2014 TAI submitted to EPA, the draft final version of the Assessment of Sediment Toxicity to White Sturgeon DSR and response to EPA’s comments. On August 10, 2015 TAI met with EPA to discuss the draft final DSR and TAI’s response to comments and clarify further changes needed in order to revise the DSR. TAI submitted a revised DSR and revised response to comments to EPA on November 20, 2015.

Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) – In August 2015 TAI provided draft straw man approaches for development of toxicity reference values (TRVs) for wildlife, sediment and porewater, and soil which served to initiate discussions between TAI, EPA and the participating parties (PPs). TAI received two comment letters on December 18, 2015 which detailed EPA and PP Workgroup Comments on the approaches. TAI is evaluating the comments and working to provide requested information prior to the meetings scheduled for January 20 and 21 for the purpose of continue work on this topic.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.